

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00
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R 250821Z AUG 77
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5478
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO CSAF WASHDC
AMEMBASSY BONN
USNMR SHAPE BE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NATO 08079

SECSTATE FOR EUR/RPM; SECDEF FOR OASD/ISA AND ODDR&E;
CSAF FOR ATF/RDPW.

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, OCON, MILI, AWACS
SUBJECT: AWACS DEMONSTRATION IN EUROPE

REF: USNATO 7173 DTG 251614Z JUL 77 (NOTAL).
SUMMARY: WE BELIEVE THE US SHOULD OFFER ALLIES OTHER THAN
THE FRG THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROPOSED
AWACS DEMONSTRATION IN EUROPE. WE RECOMMEND A LOW KEY,
BUT OFFICIAL, APPROACH TO CAPITALS THROUGH PERMREPS HERE
AT NATO HEADQUARTERS. END SUMMARY. ACTION REQUESTED:
WASHINGTON GUIDANCE.

1. UP TO THIS POINT, THE SUBJECT OF AN AWACS DEMONSTRATION
IN THE FRG HAS BEEN A BILATERAL MATTER BETWEEN THE
US AND THE FRG, WITH THE FRG HAVING TENTATIVELY AGREED TO
A DEMONSTRATION IN LATE SEPTEMBER OR IN OCTOBER (REFTEL).
WE BELIEVE THE OTHER NATO NATIONS WILL LEARN OF THE DEMONSTRATION,
PROBABLY BEFORE THE FACT, AND MAY WELL WONDER
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WHY THEY HAVE NOT BEEN INCLUDED.

2. WE BELIEVE A DEMONSTRATION COULD BE USEFUL IN BOLSTERING
THE POSITIONS OF NATIONS WHO HAVE SUPPORTED NATO
AWACS IN THE PAST. IT COULD ALSO HAVE SOME IMPACT ON
THE POSITIONS OF THE MORE NEGATIVE NATIONS (SPECIFICALLY
ITALY, ALTHOUGH A DEMONSTRATION WILL NOT HELP ITS

FINANCIAL PROBLEM). IN ADDITION, IT COULD DRAW CLOSER TO THE PROGRAM SOME OF THE FENCE-SITTING NATIONS SUCH AS BELGIUM AND DENMARK.

3. WE RECOGNIZE THAT A US OFFER FOR A DEMONSTRATION COULD BE CONSTRUED BY SOME AS ANOTHER HARD SELL EFFORT BY THE US, AND COULD THEREFORE BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. ON BALANCE, HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THE US SHOULD GIVE THE OTHER ALLIES THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DEMONSTRATION IF THEY DESIRE TO DO SO.

4. WE RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING COURSE OF ACTION. ONCE THE FRG HAS AGREED ON FIRM DATES FOR THE DEMONSTRATION, WASHINGTON SEEK THE FRG'S CONCURRENCE TO INVITING THE OTHER ALLIES. THEN THE MISSION, IN COORDINATION WITH THE FRG DELEGATION HERE, COULD WRITE TO SYG LUNS AND THE PERMREPS, EXPLAINING THAT THERE WILL BE AN AWACS DEMONSTRATION IN GERMANY ON A GIVEN DATE, AND INVITING NATIONS TO SEND APPROPRIATE OBSERVERS, IF THEY WISH TO DO SO. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE. GLITMAN

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